

Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Courtney Biddle, and I am a concerned citizen from Stonington, CT.

I am writing you to ask for your support of **Raised Senate Bill 354**, a bill that will create a music therapy license in Connecticut. This bill is important because it will allow Connecticut citizens to more easily access music therapy services, and it will protect the public by ensuring that these services are provided by trained and qualified practitioners.

Please note that my support of licensure for music therapy is dependent on some language changes which have been submitted as written testimony by Jennifer Sokira on behalf of the CT Task Force. These changes ensure that the license is reflective of current board certification requirements in music therapy and is not limiting to the practices of Board Certified Music Therapists currently in CT.

I have been a board certified music therapist (MT-BC) for 12 years, and for 10 of those years I have been practicing in Connecticut. In my job as a music therapist, I get to witness many amazing gains by my clients each and every day. I am fortunate enough to work with a wide variety of people, from active duty military members struggling with PTSD and addiction, to children with autism, to people who have suffered traumatic brain injuries. Music therapy is able to help people find their voices, connect with the outside world, and regain functioning in many aspects of their lives.

Being a music therapist is one of my greatest joys in life! However, there is a great need for increased access to music therapy services, which I believe state recognition, in the form of a license, will be a step in helping residents of Connecticut access services. Many times, clients have had to put treatment on hold because of difficulty finding funding streams for services. Not only will people be able to access quality services more easily, but a license for music therapists will help consumers be protected from people who have not gone through the educational or clinical training requirements standard in approved music therapy programs.

For these reasons, I ask that you please vote "yes" on **Raised Senate Bill 354!**

Sincerely,

Courtney R. Biddle, MMT, MT-BC

47 Deer Ridge Road

Stonington, CT 06378

courtney@progressionsmusictherapy.com

860-389-1356